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AN APPEAL  
FOR THE  
INSANE



*Penn. Hosp.*

AN APPEAL  
TO THE  
CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA  
FOR MEANS TO  
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS  
FOR  
THE INSANE.

PHILADELPHIA:  
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1854.





## A P P E A L.

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THE city of Philadelphia has long enjoyed the proud distinction of having, by the efforts of its private citizens, originated, and since supported, the first institution for the care and treatment of the insane in America. It has aimed, too, at all times to be foremost among those who have been laboring to ameliorate the condition of this unfortunate class of our fellow-beings, and has ever been ready to provide the means for whatever improvements benevolence and science have shown to be worthy of adoption. The first movements in this great work were made in 1750, when a number of the benevolent citizens of Philadelphia—witnessing the de-

plorable condition of the insane, and of the sick poor of the Province—associated themselves together for the establishment of a hospital for their relief. A charter was promptly granted by the Provincial Assembly, and the first patient was admitted in 1752. Thus originated the Pennsylvania Hospital, which has ever since been dispensing its blessings among the afflicted in every section of the State.

From the opening of the Hospital, till the present time, it has received and treated in its wards, no less than 58,600 patients, and of these 33,900 were poor people, who received every care and attention without expense or charge of any kind. All this has been effected without assistance from city, county, or State, with the exception of certain appropriations made by the Provincial Assembly, and by the State Legislature towards the close of the last century, and which were expended in the erection of the

original buildings in the city of Philadelphia. All contributions to the general fund of the Hospital are securely invested, and the entire income of the Institution from this source, is devoted to the relief of the indigent sick and insane.

The number of patients commonly under care in the two branches of the Pennsylvania Hospital is about 385, and of these about 230 are insane, and 157 free patients.

The late alterations and improvements in the Hospital in the city have so extended the accommodations of that well known charity, that fifty more sick patients could be well cared for in that building, if the funds of the Institution permitted their reception.

The care of the insane, always a prominent object with the founders of the Pennsylvania Hospital, has received a liberal share of attention from their successors in every period of the history of the Institu-

tion. From 1752 till 1841, the insane were received and treated in a portion of the buildings in the city of Philadelphia; but long before the last-named period, those connected with the Institution became thoroughly convinced, that the arrangements then existing—liberal as they were, for the period when they were provided—did not comport with the character of Philadelphia for liberality and active benevolence, or with the spirit of the age, nor did they satisfy the wants of an enlightened community.

The wise foresight of the early managers of the Hospital, in securing the vacant lots, then surrounding the Hospital in the city, and the careful husbanding of their resources, ultimately enabled their successors to carry out in the most liberal manner, their long cherished object, of providing in a country location, a new Institution for the insane, replete with every desirable improve-



ment, and without any call for aid from their benevolent fellow-citizens. "THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE," two miles west of the River Schuylkill, the result of these efforts, may be referred to with entire confidence as an honor to the State, and a blessing to the whole community.

Since its opening, in 1841, 2,445 insane patients have been received and treated in its wards, and of these 1,699 have been discharged entirely cured, or in various states of improvement, while a large number of others have been enabled to enjoy comforts in life, to which they had long been strangers. Its advantages have been restricted to no class of society, for among its cases have been numerous individuals endowed with the brightest genius, having the most cultivated intellects, or possessing the most abundant wealth, as well as those who have had to bear the double affliction of sickness and poverty. Of the whole number admitted,



610 were received and treated without charge of any kind, and a large number of others enjoyed the benefits of the Institution at rates considerably below the actual cost of their support.

The whole number of insane treated in the Pennsylvania Hospital, since its opening in 1752, is 6,702.

The present buildings of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane are intended for the accommodation of 220 patients, 110 of each sex, this number being regarded by the best authorities, as about as large as is desirable in the highest class of curative institutions for the insane. For more than a year, this number has been almost constantly exceeded, the wards in nearly every part of the house, have been steadily crowded, and a large number of applicants have, from painful necessity, been refused admission.

Could those to whom this appeal is addressed listen to the urgent entreaties almost

daily made for accommodations which do not exist, could they know the diminished chances of cure, which become the lot of many of the insane from the want of proper and prompt treatment, or witness the distress and sorrow which whole families suffer in consequence, it is not too much to believe, that all that is required to remove this state of things, would be as cheerfully as it would be promptly contributed by the citizens of Philadelphia.

Insanity is a disease that seems to be of growing frequency in the community, but whether this be so or not, the unexampled increase of our population is of itself enough to account for the urgent necessity which exists for greatly extended provision for its treatment. One of the most important steps made towards securing a proper appreciation of this malady, and a successful mode of treatment, was the general conviction among enlightened men of what is an undoubted

truth, that insanity, a functional disorder of the brain, is to be regarded in the same category as the diseases of other organs, that there is no more reproach connected with one than the others, and that it is as curable, if properly treated, as many other maladies. It is no less certain that it is a disease from which none can claim exemption, for it spares neither age, sex, nor rank, and all classes who suffer from it require nearly the same kind of treatment. Although in these respects resembling other diseases, it has, nevertheless, striking peculiarities, and among these, one of the most important is that which all experience clearly proves, that it is commonly best managed among strangers, and rarely with success except in institutions specially arranged for its treatment. The aid of the charitable may provide all that is requisite for the poorest, when suffering from ordinary sickness, at their own homes, but when insanity strikes down a member of a

family, it is one of the most painful of its attendants, that all the resources of wealth, all the efforts of skill, and all the devoted attentions of the tenderest affection so commonly fail to afford relief to the sufferer while at his own home.

This appeal then to the benevolence and liberality of Philadelphians and Pennsylvanians, is not merely an ordinary call for charity to relieve the indigent and to mitigate the sufferings of the unfortunate. While it embraces all these in its aims, it goes much further, and asks from this community that it will secure itself against a contingency, which, if not now actually existing, is rapidly approaching, when our citizens—no matter how urgent may be the case, or how vitally important the provision—can feel no security that any one of them can rely with certainty upon finding in our own institutions proper accommodations for the treatment and care of those who are suffering under one of the



most lamentable diseases to which humanity is exposed. The facts are simply these—the present institutions are more than full, the demands for admission are steadily increasing, and additional buildings must be promptly provided, or great loss and suffering must soon result to the community.

To obviate all these difficulties, and to provide the best kind of accommodations, on a scale which it is believed will be sufficient for many years, a plan has recently been proposed by the Physician of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, after a careful study of the whole subject, which meets the entire approbation of this Board, which they most cordially commend to the sympathies of the whole community, and to carry out which thoroughly, they now make this earnest appeal to their fellow-citizens. Immediately on the west of the present pleasure-grounds of the Institution just referred to, and belonging to it, are seventy acres of land



admirably situated, and possessing extraordinary advantages for the intended object. On these grounds it is proposed to erect a new Hospital, replete with every modern improvement and convenience, for about 200 male patients, and to give up the whole of the present buildings to females. Such an arrangement, it is believed, will possess important advantages, and once fairly in operation, there is every reason to believe, that while furnishing accommodations of the highest order and of rare excellence, to those who wish them, will also minister largely to the comfort and welfare of the indigent and those in moderate circumstances. Carried out as proposed, with all the knowledge derived from long experience, this plan would give to Philadelphia a provision for the insane, certainly unsurpassed, if equalled, in any portion of the world.

To effect all that is desired, which is no more than seems to be imperatively de-

manded even now, will require an expenditure of \$250,000, and for this sum we appeal to the benevolent in a community, now numbering half a million of souls, and which has never yet allowed an object so deserving and so urgently needed, to fail from the want of a generous and liberal support.

An arrangement nearly similar is now projected by the liberal people of Boston, and, judging from all their antecedents, will soon be carried into effect. A comparatively limited number of the citizens of New York have just contributed a sum for the improvement of their hospitals, nearly as large as that proposed for our purposes, and a single individual, in another neighboring city, has devoted to a similar object from his private fortune, more than will be required to carry out our plans to completion. Philadelphia so long and so justly distinguished for her judicious liberality and enlightened benevolence, certainly can never falter while such a

want exists in her midst, or be willing to feel that she has been distanced in such a work by any of her neighbors.

We appeal to Philadelphians specially, but also to all Pennsylvanians, as interested in the call. The Pennsylvania Hospital receives its patients, without preference, from every section of the State, and all the populous counties around Philadelphia depend upon it, for these accommodations, almost as much as the city in which it is located.

The best guarantee that can be given for the faithful manner in which any trust confided to the Pennsylvania Hospital will be executed, is a reference to the whole history of that institution from its foundation, more than a century ago.

To commemorate the names of those to whom this community must ever feel indebted for this new Hospital, it is proposed that some durable recognition shall be made of all who contribute to the work, and that

one of the ten wards into which it will be divided, shall bear the name of each donor to the amount of \$10,000, while \$5,000 shall be considered as forever securing a free bed to the Institution, which shall be named after the giver of that amount, and which shall be kept occupied by such recent cases of insanity, as the officers of the Institution may consider most likely to be restored, and best calculated to extend the benefits of the Hospital. Every such bed can thus be made to restore to health one or two insane in every year it shall exist, and who could not otherwise be provided for. The payment of no contribution will be asked, until at least \$150,000 shall have been subscribed.

This appeal is made by the undersigned, comprising the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, on behalf of that portion of our afflicted fellow-men, who can in no other mode than that suggested, find the proper means of relief. We ask the



means to carry out this imperatively needed object, from our own fellow-citizens of Pennsylvania, for it is solely for their benefit that it is designed. We ask it to save the mentally sick from neglect and cruel exposure, and from being doomed to a hopeless madness; to spare their families a load of grief and sorrow, often too deep for utterance; to save the community from the acts of irresponsible individuals, and the public treasury from the care of incurables, who under proper treatment would have been useful citizens. We ask this, from the parents, children, husbands, wives, or friends of those, who, should this dire calamity ever overtake them, must look principally to this Institution for relief. We ask them to take this matter home to their own serious consideration; to ponder the facts we have briefly stated, and then to do for others, as they would have others do for them—to give liberally as their means are abundant, so



that while they may enjoy the pleasant reflection that they have, as cheerful givers, rendered important aid to one of the noblest and most unselfish works—the New Hospital for the Insane may be completed so promptly, as to meet the wants of the afflicted, and in a manner so liberal, as to realize every expectation of an enlightened community.

LAWRENCE LEWIS, No. 345 CHESTNUT STREET.

GEORGE STEWARDSON, No. 90 ARCH STREET.

WILLIAM B. FLING, WEST RITTENHOUSE SQUARE.

FREDERICK BROWN, CHESTNUT AND 5TH STREETS.

JAMES R. GREEVES, CHESTNUT AND 17TH STREETS.

JACOB G. MORRIS, N. W. COR. SPRUCE AND 9TH STS.

MORDECAI L. DAWSON, SPRUCE ST. WEST OF BROAD.

CLEMENT C. BIDDLE, SPRUCE STREET WEST OF 12TH.

JOHN FARNUM, No. 257 ARCH STREET.

MORDECAI D. LEWIS, No. 328 CHESTNUT STREET.

WILLIAM BIDDLE, N. W. COR. ARCH AND 11TH STS.

JOHN M. WHITALL, No. 161 FILBERT STREET.

PHILADELPHIA: May 1, 1854.

CONTRIBUTIONS will be received by either of the above-named Managers, by JOHN T. LEWIS, *Treasurer*, No. 135 South Front St., Philadelphia, or by Dr. THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, at the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.

LEGACIES intended to promote the objects of this appeal should be given in the corporate name of the Institution, viz. to "THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL," and should specify that they are to be devoted to extending and improving the accommodations for the Insane.

